SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

LONDON: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 1917.

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British Medical Association.

CURRENT NOTES.

American Medical Officers in England.

AT the meeting of the Central Medical War Committee on September 26th the substitution of American doctors for civil medical practitioners in military hospitals[1] was considered in connexion with a memorandum submitted by the Chairman of the Committee. The situation having been thus explained to the Committee and debated by them, it was decided that a representation should be made to the Director-General of the Army Medical Service asking that the Committee should be consulted on all matters affecting civilian medical men previous to action being taken. The statements in the lay press that the process of substitution, as far as it has gone, was in accordance with the expressed wishes or views of the Central Medical War Committee were entirely erroneous.

Cost of Petrol.

We have received a number of communications upon this subject. Dr. George L. Lefevre, honorary secretary of the Staffordshire Panel Committee, writes:

I trust that the Medico-Political Committee will not take the answer of the Deputy Controller of the Petrol Control Department as final. He is either ignorant of the facts or chooses to appear so. The net price of petrol to medical practitioners was 1s. 4d. just before the war; it is now 4s. On 50 gallons of petrol per month this represents an increase of £80 per annum. Whatever this works out at per day, it is an increase that very few practitioners can afford, and so long as Government Departments ask for the services of practitioners at pre-war rates they should ensure that the working expenses of the practitioners are kept as far as possible at the former cost.

Dr. A. J. Campbell, honorary secretary of the Berwickshire Panel Committee, forwards a copy of a letter addressed by his committee to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the National Health Insurance Commission, Scotland, and the Scottish War Emergency Committee, from which we take the following extracts:

At the beginning of 1913, when the medical benefit part of the National Health Insurance Act came into force, petrol cost 1s. 7d. per gallon. It now costs 4s. 6d. per gallon. From the former price doctors were allowed a rebate of 1½d., from the latter a rebate of 6d. per gallon. The difference in actual cost is thus 2s. 6½d. per gallon. Doctors using cars in this district are not likely to get more than eighteen miles per gallon from their petrol. . . . The difference in the price of petrol has added 1s. 7d. to the running cost of every mile we drive. . . . We cannot make all of this good by raising our fees. Much of our private work is done among people to whom the war has brought no increase of income. We have found that, although during the war we have lost many healthy men from our lists, yet a greater proportion of our work is National Health Insurance work than before, since a large number whom we formerly treated as private patients have come on our insured lists. Even if it were not so, it would not be fair to ask our private patients alone to adjust the disturbed balance. The recent rise of 10d. per gallon in the price of petrol has prompted us to voice our grievance now. But there are many other ways in which our working expenses have been increased.

The Berwickshire Panel Committee ask that the hardship may be relieved by an increased capitation fee or mileage grant, or, alternatively, by an additional rebate on petrol taxation.

[1] BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, September 22nd, 1917, pp. 395 and 400.

DISCHARGED DISABLED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

THE following communication was addressed to the Insurance Commission by the chairman of a Panel Committee on September 24th, 1917:

The Panel Committee for this district meets on Friday, 28th instant, to discuss the new regulation *re* sailors and soldiers discharged and disabled. It will greatly aid us if you will state briefly if my impression of the conditions existing are correct.

The amount paid in on cards for the first half of the year yields the number of 9s. (or less) to be credited to the Central Medical Benefit Fund. No disabled person stamps cards; therefore they are attended for the duration of their disablement for nothing. No discharged disabled sailor or soldier will pay anything to that fund; therefore, so far as the expenditure of 9s. per head of such sailors or soldiers is concerned, it will come out of the Central Medical Benefit Fund to which they have not contributed. A non-panel doctor attending sailors, etc. (as above), would also be paid out of the fund to which no payment has been contributed.

Thus the panel doctors are to be paid out of their earnings from other panel patients and the non-panel doctors are to plunder the scanty funds which should rightly belong to those medical men who have taken up service under the National Health Insurance Commissioners.

I shall be grateful for a reply in time to put before my committee; in the event of none forthcoming we shall conclude that the surmises are correct.

The reply of the Commissioners to this communication was as follows:

September 25th, 1917.

I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commission (England) to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to state that the assumptions set out in your letter are quite contrary to the facts.

The Commissioners have stated in paragraph 43 of Memorandum 229/I.C. that they fully recognize their responsibility for the proper constitution of the central medical pool, and that they have no other purpose in view than to arrive, as accurately as is humanly possible, at the sum of money due to the doctors.

If you will refer to paragraph 28 of that memorandum you will find that the number on which the 9s. per head is calculated is not only the number of stamped contribution cards surrendered by societies in respect of the first half of the year (as stated in your letter), but that this number is supplemented by—

(1) The number of members aged 70 years and upwards,
(2) The number of deposit contributors and exempt persons, and
(3) The number of members of the Navy and Army Fund entitled to medical benefit.

In this last connexion it should be borne in mind that all discharged disabled soldiers who are not members of societies become automatically members of the Navy and Army Fund entitled to medical benefit.

In paragraphs 29 to 31 of the memorandum it is explained that, *normally*, insured persons who are permanently incapacitated are a set-off in a central pool against excess credits in respect of other classes of insured persons. But in paragraph 39 the special procedure adopted in the 1915 Medical Benefit Settlement is set out, and this course was again adopted at the instance of the medical profession in 1916. It is expressly stated in this paragraph that the total charges for 1915 against societies in respect of medical benefit were calculated on the basis of the charges for 1914, adjustments being made, *inter alia*, in respect of the number of insured persons discharged from the navy and army; these adjustments have the effect of adding the proper credits to the central pool in respect of these discharged persons.

Insurance calculations affecting several millions of insured persons are of necessity complicated, but it should be apparent from the extracts from Memorandum 229/I.C., to which reference has been made, that the original formula, in accordance with

which the central medical pool is calculated, has not been followed blindly, but has, in fact, been the subject of adjustment to meet the conditions created by the return of disabled soldiers and sailors to insurance entitling them to medical benefit, and that it will, in accordance with the general undertaking given by the Commissioners in paragraph 42 of the Memorandum, continue to be adjusted either in that respect or in any other in which revision is called for, in order that the doctors may in fact receive what is due to them.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE following notifications are announced by the Admiralty:—Staff Surgeon P. L. Crosbie, F.R.C.S.I., has been promoted to the rank of Fleet Surgeon. Surgeon J. G. Boal, M.B., to the *Skirmisher*. Temporary Surgeons: A. McMillan to the *Dominion;* J. H. M. Sandison, M.B., to Chatham Hospital; J. E. McGibbon to the *Vivid;* H. A. L. Guthrie, W. Forsyth, J. P. Fleming, and K. B. A. Aikman, to the *Pembroke;* P. G. S. Davis to the *Shipjack;* G. A. Clarke, M.B., to the *Circe;* W. A. Mein to the *Victory;* A. W. North to the *Cormorant;* H. R. Bickerton to the *Liverpool.* To be temporary Surgeon: B. Maclean.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

Surgeon-General R. W. Ford, K.C.M.G., M.B., D.S.O., and Colonel E. A. Burnside are retained on the active list under the provisions of Articles 120 and 522, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, and to be supernumerary.

Temporary Lieut.-Colonel A. S. Woodwark, M.D., to be Deputy Assistant Director-General (temporary).

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Temporary Major F. E. Crew, Devon Regiment (T.F.), to be temporary Major.

Temporary Lieutenants to be temporary Captains: L. J. Hood, M.B., W. Lumsden, M.B., F. Jubb, N. Leonard, M.D.

To be temporary Captains: E. C. A. Smith, F. W. Hird, M.B., F. E. Daunt, M.B., G. R. C. Wilson, S. G. MacDonald, S. Jacob, W. Russell, M.C., M.D., H. D. Gasteen, W. Bannerman, M.B., S. Oliver, R. E. Walker, M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Second Lieutenant (temporary Captain) F. E. Reynolds, Yeomanry (T.F.), to be temporary Captain.

The notification in the *London Gazette* of August 8th, 1917, regarding Captain C. W. Milner is cancelled.

To be temporary Lieutenants: E. F. Wills, M.B., F. M. Auld, M.D., H. Goodman, M.B., T. A. Ross, M.D., J. R. McGregor, M.B., L. W. Forsyth, H. W. James, T. J. Little, M.B., R. T. Stoney, E. A. Bernard, W. D. Sammon, O. G. Evans, A. C. Strain, M.D., T. J. Lyons, B. R. Billings, E. S. Ellis, J. R. Liddell, E. L. Clay, M.B., J. C. Drysdale, M.B., C. L. Birmingham, M.D., H. B. Ellison, M.B., H. Galloway, F. W. Emery, M.D., J. Brown, M.B., J. N. G. W. McMorris, N. Garrard, G. G. Macdonald, M.D., G. S. Banks, M.B., J. P. F. Waters, M.B., A. B. S. Todd, M.B., C. M. Pennefather, M.B., S. A. Day, A. Dixon, J. R. Prytherch, M.B., D. A. Tompsett, M.D., J. E. Lucas, W. C. Fowler, M.D., T. R. Evans, M.D., F. O'B. Ellison, M.D., J. M. S. Wood, M.B., J. T. Hill, C. Peacock, M.B., J. H. Fenn, A. S. Wilson, M.B., J. C. Mead, M.B., F.R.C.S., A. S. Griffith, M.D., T. F. Pugh, M.B., A. C. Sharp, M.B., J. Lascelles, M.B., C. J. A. Woodside, M.B., H. Widdas, M.B., W. B. Wilson, J. Brierley, M.D., N. V. Mitton, M.B., A. S. Morley, F.R.C.S., W. R. Bayne, M.B., L. G. Allan, M.B., R. B. Kinloch, M.B., C. P. Strong, M.B., A. E. A. Carver, M.D., A. Mills, M.D., E. Macmillan, M.B., A. Lowndes, R. Montgomery, M.D., I. H. Lipetz, M.B., T. C. D Cathcart, W. P. Lowe, M.B., C. H. Rippmann, M.D., E. L. Holland, M.D., F.R.C.S.

The name of John Peter Carroll is as now described, and not as in the *London Gazette* of August 26th, 1916, and September 5th, 1917.

To be temporary honorary Lieutenants: J. W. Hawthorne, O. H. Stansfield, T. J. Blacksheer, jun., A. O. Raymond, W. H. Braddock, M.D.

R. Gellatly, M.B., to be temporary honorary Lieutenant whilst serving at the Huddersfield War Hospital.

VACANCIES.

NOTICES REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.—Attention is called to a Notice (see Index to Advertisements—Important Notice re Appointments) appearing in our advertisement columns, giving particulars of vacancies as to which inquiries should be made before application.

BARNSLEY: BECKETT HOSPITAL.—Second Lady House-Surgeon. Salary, £225 per annum.

BIRKENHEAD BOROUGH HOSPITAL.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £175.

BIRMINGHAM: ROMSLEY HILL SANATORIUM.—(1) Medical Superintendent (temporary). (2) Assistant Medical Superintendent. Salary, £500 and £300 per annum respectively.

BLACKPOOL: VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—Lady House-Surgeon. Salary, £250 per annum.

BOLTON INFIRMARY.—Lady Locumtenent to act as Assistant House-Surgeon.

BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—(1) House-Physician. (2) House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum.

BURY INFIRMARY.—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

CAMBRIDGE: ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL.—(1) House-Surgeon. (2) House-Physician. Salary, £300 per annum.

COLMONELL PARISH, Ayrshire.—District Medical Officer. Salary, £70 per annum, and vaccination salary £2.

LEEDS PUBLIC DISPENSARY.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £200.

LIVERPOOL: BROWNLOW HILL POOR LAW HOSPITAL.—Resident Assistant Medical Officers. Salary, £300 per annum.

MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.—Assistant School Medical Officer (female). Salary, £300 per annum, rising to £450.

NORTHERN SANATORIUM AND CONVALESCENT FEVER HOSPITAL, Winchmore Hill, N.—Temporary Assistant Medical Officer. Remuneration, £7 7s. per week.

NORWICH: JENNY LIND HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Lady Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £250 per annum.

NOTTINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE INFIRMARY.—Lady House-Surgeon. Salary, £200–£250 per annum.

NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon (female). Salary, £250 per annum.

OXFORD EYE HOSPITAL.—Resident House-Surgeon.

POOLE: CORNELIA HOSPITAL.—Medical Officer for Out-patients' Department.

READING: ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL.—(1) Senior Resident Medical Officer for Venereal Diseases Department. (2) House-Surgeon. (3) Second House-Surgeon. Salary for (1), £350; (2), £250; and (3), £200 if qualified and £150 if unqualified.

SALISBURY GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum.

SHEFFIELD: THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Casualty Officer. Salary, £150 per annum.

SOUTHAMPTON: FREE EYE HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum.

SOUTHAMPTON: ROYAL SOUTH HANTS AND SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.—House-Physician.

SUNDERLAND: ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Lady House-Surgeon. Salary, £200 per annum.

WEST BROMWICH DISTRICT HOSPITAL.—Senior House-Surgeon. Salary, £160.

WEST HAM UNION.—Temporary Assistant Medical Officer at the Whipps Cross Infirmary. Salary, £300 per annum.

WINCHESTER: ROYAL HAMPSHIRE COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Junior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEON.—The Chief Inspector of Factories announces the following vacant appointment: Barry (Glamorgan).

To ensure notice in this column—which is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars will be found—it is necessary that advertisements should be received not later than the first post on Wednesday morning. Persons interested should refer also to the Index to Advertisements which follows the Table of Contents in the JOURNAL.

APPOINTMENTS.

HERKLOTS, G. A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Resident Assistant Medical Officer to the Portsmouth Workhouse and Infirmary.

MITCHELL, T. C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., District Medical Officer of the Ripon Union.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is **5s.**, *which sum should be forwarded with the notice not later than the first post on Wednesday morning in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.*

BIRTH.

SCOTT.—On September 19th, at The Birches, Bourne End, the wife of S. Gilbert Scott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 6, Bentinck Street, London, W.—a son.

MARRIAGE.

HILTON JONES—DAVIES BRYAN.—On September 25th, at Engedi C.M. Chapel, Carnarvon, by the Rev. R. D. Rowlands (Anthropos) and the Rev. John Owen, M.A., Captain R. Orthin Hilton Jones, M.C., R.A.M.C., youngest son of Dr. R. T. Jones, J.P., and Mrs. Jones, Harlech, to Olwen, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Davies Bryan, Cairo, Egypt, and Carnarvon.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY.

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY, 1, Wimpole Street, W.—9 p.m., First Hunterian Lecture, by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, K.C.V.O., on Modern Antiseptics.

FRIDAY.

WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, West London Hospital, Hammersmith, W.—8.30 p.m., Presidential address: Medical Men as Portrayed in English Literature.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

NORTH-EAST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15.

DIARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Date.		Meetings to be Held.
		OCTOBER.
1	Mon.	London: Naval and Military Committee, 2 p.m.
2	Tues.	London: Public Health Poor Law Medical Officers Sub-committee, 2.30 p.m.
		London: Public Health Medical Officers of Health Sub-committee, 3 p.m.
		London: Public Health Committee, 3.30 p.m.
3	Wed.	London: Journal Committee, 2.30 p.m.
		London: Medico-Political Committee.
5	Fri.	London: Central Ethical Committee, 2.30 p.m.
6	Sat.	London: Science Committee, 11 a.m.
9	Tues.	London: Hospitals Committee.
11	Thurs.	London: Organization Committee, 12.30 p.m.
17	Wed.	London: Finance Committee.
18	Thurs.	London: Conference of Representatives of Local Medical and Panel Committees.
24	Wed.	London: **Council Meeting**.

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